

New Orleans Hurricane Recovery Briefing
September 28, 2005
John Hainkel Senate Briefing Room

REENTRY TO THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

On Thursday, September 29, military/police checkpoints will be reassigned to flooded areas to accommodate full access to business owners and residents of target zip codes. Areas targeted for early repopulation include the following zip codes: 70112, 70113, 70114, 70115, 70116, 70118, 70130 and 70131.

On Friday, September 30, residents of these target zip codes will be allowed full access for inspection and possible repopulation. The city has conducted initial inspections of residences in these areas to determine structural damage. Residences bearing a green sticker are safe for habitation. However, those residences coded with red stickers are deemed to be structurally hazardous. Consequently, the city advises against re-entry to any homes bearing red stickers - access to second floors in these residences is particularly dangerous and should be avoided. Under no circumstances, however, will individuals be allowed to stay overnight in homes with a red sticker. You must leave the city by the start of curfew.

If you are in the target zip codes, residents are advised to run their hot and cold water initially for 15 minutes upon returning to their residence. Chlorine fumes will be discharged during the initial drainage. After the initial run-off, water in these areas is potable (boil then use). Returning residents can also seek assistance at the Hurricane Recovery Center, located at L B Landry High School, 1200 L B Landry Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70114.

Access to the rest of the city is scheduled for Wednesday, October 5th. At that time all residents, with the exception of those from the lower ninth ward, will be allowed to return to their property for inspection purposes ONLY.

Please remember that there are limited services in the city. Before returning you should consider stocking up on water and food and other household supplies. Gloves to protect your hands and masks should be considered as well. Children and adults should be vaccinated according to the recommended child, adolescent and adult immunization schedules BEFORE returning to the city. Childhood , adolescent and adult immunization schedules are available at: www.cdc.gov

SCHOOLS

The Orleans Parish School Board is awaiting confirmation from city officials regarding repopulation before opening any schools. However, preliminary inspections suggest that as many as 9-10 schools on the westbank and a few schools on the eastbank (primarily uptown) may open on November 1st or January 3rd. Teacher salaries were paid through the end of August and benefits will continue through October 31st. The Board is still working with the consulting firm Alvarez & Marsal to finalize cost projections and create a preliminary budget. Consequently, all payments to contractors and vendors have been deferred. The Board will meet again on October 7th.

ADMINISTRATION

Given the disruption of revenue, the city has received \$102 million in FEMA reimbursements to help keep the city afloat and offset firemen and police overtime. Mayor Nagin is in the process of assembling a Rebuilding Committee to examine the fiscal, structural and social issues concerning the recovery process. All members of the New Orleans legislative delegation will be invited to join.

More Hurricane Recovery information is available at Representative Cheryl Gray's homepage.